

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1024

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016

Salinity in Soil

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of soil salinity in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the reasons for salinity of soil; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to reduce the salinity of soil and the extent of success achieved as a result of these efforts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As per available estimates of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), an area of about 2.96 million hectare is affected by soil salinity across the country. State wise extent of area affected soil salinity is annexed. Soil salinity is mainly created due to saline parent material, secondary salinization and sea water intrusion.

(c): ICAR has developed various technologies for reclamation of Problem Soil consisting of subsurface drainage, bio-drainage, salt tolerant varieties of different crops (namely, rice, wheat and mustard) and agro-forestry interventions to improve the productivity of such lands. Besides, ICAR imparts training and organizes Field Level Demonstrations (FLDs) to educate farmers about latest technology adoption in this aspect.

Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched a "Reclamation of Problem Soil (RPS)" as a Sub-Scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during 2016-17 for reclamation of problem soil (alkalinity, salinity and acid). Under this scheme states having larger extent of problem soil area are being given financial assistance for reclamation of such areas.